

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, JUNE, 1947.

This bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of June, 1947. The information covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply for benefit. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The June figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 3,102 males and 129 females, the total of 3,231 being 4,361 less than the peak figure of 7,592 for February, but 331 over October, 1946.

	End of Month.		Males.	Females.	Total.
1946 -	October	.. ..	2,814	86	2,900
	November	.. ..	3,570	94	3,664
	December	.. ..	5,971	168	6,139
1947 -	January	.. ..	7,262	228	7,490
	February	.. ..	7,394	198	7,592
	March	.. ..	6,505	184	6,689
	April	.. ..	4,698	149	4,847
	May	.. ..	3,335	151	4,086
	June	.. ..	3,102	129	3,231

The figures for the early months of 1947 were considerably affected by seasonal unemployment. February recorded the highest number on unemployment benefit for this season; and, as seasonal industries continued re-employing displaced workers, the number on benefit at the end of June, 1947, fell to the lowest level recorded since October, 1946.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of June was 129, compared with 151 for May. The Brisbane District figure, 37 was the highest figure recorded for any one district for the month. Bundaberg District had 19 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of June, Mackay 16, and Rockhampton and Townsville 13 each. The balance of 31 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, February (the peak month), May, and June, together with the increase or decrease during June for each cause.

Cause of Unemployment.	October, 1946.	February, 1947.	May, 1947.	June, 1947.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June.
Medical unfitness for type					
of work, work too heavy ..	109	100	74	72	- 2
Inefficiency, incompetence ..	112	144	96	97	+ 1
Establishment closed, reduction					
of staff .. ..	491	854	583	507	- 76
Replaced by re-instated					
servicemen .. ..	116	131	76	67	- 9
Shortage of materials ..	130	252	139	142	- 47
Seasonal work and weather					
conditions .. ..	276	3,327	1,181	729	- 452
Casual work .. ..	495	958	650	566	- 84
Discharged or laid off for					
other reasons .. ..	438	514	278	247	- 31
Quitted because work too heavy,					
medically unfit, etc. ..	231	440	373	355	- 18
Quitted for other reasons ..	179	324	242	177	- 65
Not previously employed ..	323	548	344	272	- 72
	2,900	7,592	4,086	3,231	- 855

The number of persons drawing unemployment benefit in May due to the seasonal nature of their work decreased in June by 452, with smaller decreases for other causes, with the exception of "Medical unfitness for type of work" and "Inefficiency, incompetence", for which the numbers were practically unchanged. The peak of seasonal unemployment for the State was passed in February, although it was March before the northern sugar districts recorded their highest figures; and the decreases in these districts, particularly in Mackay, Innisfail and Cairns, during May accounted for 579 of the 452 decrease in seasonal unemployment. The movements are illustrated in the following statement which shows the number of persons drawing benefit in each district in October, 1946, the number in the month up to June 1947 which showed the highest level of unemployment, and the number in June 1947, together with the increase from October 1946 to the seasonal peak, and the subsequent decrease. It was pointed out in the last issue of this bulletin that, at the end of May, some of the northern districts (particularly Mackay, Innisfail, and Cairns) still had a substantial pool of seasonally displaced labour waiting for re-absorption. The following statement shows that by the end of June practically all districts had re-absorbed the displaced labour and that unemployment was back to, or below, the October 1946 level. The outstanding exceptions were Bundaberg (where the numbers started to increase again in May 1947, after falling to 388 in April compared with 101 in October, 1946), and Mackay (where the June 1947 number was 389 compared with 229 in October, 1946). In these two districts the sugar season was not fully operating at the end of June, and the figures will fall in later months.

District.	October, 1946.	Peak of Seasonal Unemployment to June, 1947.	June, 1947	Increase October to Peak.	Decrease Peak to June.
Brisbane ..	1,401	2,065 (Feb. 1947)	1,358	664	707
Ipswich ..	154	190 (Dec. 1946)	69	36	121
Gympie ..	21	30 (Feb. 1947)	12	9	18
Maryborough	127	221 (Jan. 1947)	79	94	142
Bundaberg ..	101	593 (Jan. 1947)	469	495	127
Toowoomba ..	94	177 (Feb. 1947)	101	83	76
Warwick ..	23	42 (Dec. 1946)	15	19	27
Roma ..	10	24 (Dec. 1946)	9	14	15
Charleville .	44	75 (Dec. 1946)	26	31	49
Rockhampton	345	1,462 (Jan. 1947)	252	1,117	1,210
Emerald ..	1	10 (Jan. 1947)	3	9	7
Longreach ..	12	117 (Dec. 1946)	26	105	91
Mackay ..	229	861 (Mar. 1947)	389	632	472
Ayr ..	10	233 (Feb. 1947)	11	223	222
Townsville ..	127	616 (Mar. 1947)	94	489	522
Ingham ..	7	440 (Mar. 1947)	15	433	425
Innisfail ..	15	368 (Mar. 1947)	56	353	312
Cairns ..	77	599 (Mar. 1947)	127	522	472
Charters Towers	69	182 (Feb. 1947)	86	113	96
Atherton ..	30	78 (Mar. 1947)	25	48	53
Hughenden ..	3	52 (Feb. 1947)	9	49	43
Total State	2,900	7,592 (Feb. 1947)	3,231	4,692	4,361

#### Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. 1) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. Although the Moreton Division numbers are the highest, they represent a proportion of the district population slightly less than the State average. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows the highest figure for the south-east coastal districts, followed closely by the north coast sugar areas from Mackay to Cairns. The Downs and south-west, as usual, showed easily the lowest rate, due to the almost complete absence of seasonal unemployment in this area.



Industries by Districts.

Table No. 2 shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying industries have the highest total (18 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit), and the bulk of this is in sugar farming areas. This is followed by food and drink factories (largely meatworks and sugar mills), and building and construction. The largest decreases compared with May were in agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries (890 to 580), and food and drink factories (670 to 462). A large decrease occurred during June in persons who had been unemployed since they were discharged from the Armed Services, who numbered 129 compared with 172 in May. The number unemployed for this reason reached its peak in February last at 358. Unemployed persons from the building and construction industry had fallen from 698 in March to 438 in June.

The most significant changes in June in districts were decreases in unemployment amongst agricultural field workers and sugar mill workers in Mackay, Innisfail, and Cairns; in food factory (principally meat works) workers in Rockhampton; and in building and construction workers in Rockhampton and all the northern sugar districts. In Brisbane, Maryborough, and Charleville there were increases in unemployment amongst building and construction workers.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,

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10th September, 1947.

TABLE 1. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,  
JUNE, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off								Quitted			Total	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.	Not previously employed.	Number.	Per 10,000 population.
Brisbane ..	34	69	296	38	70	66	205	142	200	84	154	1,358	
Epworth ..	2	1	9	1	6	6	13	11	6	6	8	69	
Moreton ..	36	70	305	39	76	72	218	153	206	90	162	1,427	27
Lympie ..	.	.	2	.	3	1	1	.	1	1	3	12	
Maryborough ..	1	.	28	1	1	12	16	6	7	5	2	79	
Mundaberg ..	.	3	23	6	13	260	93	3	27	10	26	469	
S.E.Coastal	1	3	53	7	22	273	110	9	35	16	31	560	51
Goowoomba ..	1	6	13	4	5	3	22	9	20	11	7	101	
Warwick ..	1	1	3	.	.	.	2	2	2	3	1	15	
Yamba ..	.	.	.	.	.	5	1	1	1	.	1	9	
Charleville..	.	.	2	.	.	12	9	1	.	1	1	26	
Downs & S.W.	2	7	18	4	5	20	34	13	23	15	10	151	10
Rockhampton	7	3	36	8	19	55	42	22	20	19	21	252	
Merald ..	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	3	
Longreach ..	.	1	1	1	1	15	2	1	3	1	.	26	
Central ..	7	4	37	9	20	72	44	24	23	20	21	281	28
Rocky ..	8	2	17	2	9	187	91	22	22	9	20	389	
Tr ..	.	.	3	.	.	3	2	.	2	1	.	11	
Wynnsville ..	5	9	18	2	1	10	9	14	13	7	6	94	
Wingham ..	.	.	.	.	.	6	6	.	3	.	.	15	
Windsail ..	3	.	5	.	2	27	10	1	6	1	1	56	
Winds ..	5	.	37	1	2	48	11	6	2	10	5	127	
S. Coastal	21	11	80	5	14	231	129	43	48	28	32	692	46
Waters Towers	4	1	13	3	4	8	12	4	17	7	13	86	
Winton ..	.	1	1	.	.	.	16	1	2	1	3	25	
Wingham ..	1	.	.	.	1	3	3	.	1	.	.	9	
North West	5	2	14	3	5	11	31	5	20	8	16	120	25
TOTAL STATE	72	97	507	67	142	729	566	247	355	177	272	3,231	30



TABLE 2. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,  
JUNE, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including Mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	58	20	123	102	112	137	70	73	92	83	173	90	92	127	1,358
Ipswich ..	10	4	6	2	7	16	.	1	.	6	3	1	3	10	69
Moreton ..	68	24	129	104	119	153	70	74	98	89	176	91	95	137	1,427
Yympie ..	3	.	1	1	1	2	.	1	.	.	.	2	1	.	12
Maryborough ..	26	4	3	10	2	22	5	1	.	2	.	2	1	1	79
Bundaberg ..	196	14	10	95	11	41	31	10	6	23	1	13	4	14	469
S.E.Coastal ..	225	18	14	106	14	65	36	12	6	25	1	17	6	15	560
Goowocomba ..	14	2	9	8	9	17	.	3	5	6	3	9	5	11	101
Warwick ..	2	.	2	2	.	3	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	3	15
Roma ..	5	1	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Harleville ..	16	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	26
Downs & S.W. ..	37	3	11	10	11	28	.	3	5	8	4	11	6	14	151
Rockhampton ..	25	10	8	76	8	42	13	8	13	16	2	11	9	11	252
Emerald ..	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3
Longreach ..	18	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	1	26
Central ..	45	10	8	76	10	44	13	8	14	16	2	13	9	13	281
Mackay ..	121	8	8	95	15	73	1	11	6	19	5	14	5	8	389
Yarr ..	3	.	.	2	.	3	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	11
Townsville ..	10	.	5	13	6	8	3	2	7	7	11	9	2	11	94
Ingham ..	7	1	1	3	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Innisfail ..	15	5	.	13	1	12	3	1	2	1	.	3	.	.	56
Cairns ..	22	7	.	35	7	19	8	5	3	3	3	5	2	8	127
N. Coastal ..	178	21	14	161	29	117	16	19	18	31	19	32	9	28	692
Harpers Towers ..	17	10	3	5	5	19	.	4	2	5	3	2	4	7	86
Therton ..	4	2	.	.	.	10	.	4	1	2	.	2	.	.	25
Hughenden ..	6	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
North West ..	27	12	3	5	5	31	.	9	3	7	3	4	4	7	120
TOTAL STATE	580	88	179	462	188	438	135	125	144	176	205	168	129	214	3,231



S/T 1980